

## “Unknown substance” burns at Badger Army Ammunition Plant

by **JOE BLOCK**  
Editor

A prescribed burn in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area ignited an “unknown substance,” according to the DNR, on Wednesday, August 26. Residents on Keller Road, along the southern border of the recreation area, were informed of a voluntary evacuation order soon after. Keller Road and the southern section lie on the ground of the former Badger

Army Ammunition Plant. According to the DNR, “observed subsurface fires/reactions were within the area of Settling Pond 2.” The Army has been conducting a clean-up program at Badger since 1977 at the former plant to remove toxic contaminants. The land where the fire occurred is owned by the DNR. According to the DNR, hazmat teams recommended allowing the unknown subsurface material to burn out. On Thursday, August 27, given the

weather conditions, it was recommended that water be added to the fire to reduce smoke and cool the area. Rain arrived Friday, and the voluntary evacuation order was lifted. An infrared drone was used to monitor the fire. Over last weekend the site was monitored, revealing no smoke or heat. The southern portion of Sauk Prairie Recreation Area remains closed for public safety. — SEE BADGER, PAGE 2



A fire truck leaves the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant after fighting an out of control prescribed burn last Wednesday.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CITIZENS FOR SAFE WATER AROUND BADGER

## Shooting range still a possibility in Troy Township

by **LINDA SCHWANKE**  
and **JOE BLOCK**

A proposal for a shooting range in the Town of Troy on Highway 60 along the Scenic Byway will go before the town board on Tuesday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. The proposal was reviewed by the town Plan Commission two weeks ago and passed on to the board after a three to two vote in opposition to it.

The shooting range proposal, called a recreational shooting club and law enforcement training center in the proposal, was submitted to the town by Solid State Tactical of Lodi. Their request for rezoning and a condition use application states that the operational plan is for the

property at E6828 Highway 60. The land is currently zoned an agricultural preservation area. An outdoor rifle range for distances from 100 to 1,760 yards — one mile — and an indoor rifle or pistol range for up to 150 yards is being proposed. In addition, a non-profit law enforcement training area is included. Training for individuals including security officers, hunter education, concealed carry certifications, and the sale of firearms and accessories are also listed. Special events are also planned. There will be parking stalls for 98 vehicles. The proposal addresses site noise, stating that the terrain along the valley will be the primary noise prevention method. Fencing and a vegeta-

tive buffer will be added. Organizers state that safety will be enforced by trained safety officers. Lighting will meet zoning requirements, the proposal says. At the Plan Commission meeting, the majority of speakers said the proposal goes against the town’s comprehensive plan. Phillip Michalski, who lives nearby, said he was never contacted by Solid State Tactical. Jeb Barzen, an opponent of the plan, said the Sauk County Sheriff’s Department wasn’t contacted, although Solid State Tactical said they had made contact. Sauk County Sheriff Chip Meister said the department did not endorse the shoot- — SEE TROY, PAGE 2

## COVID-19 cases level off across the area

by **JOE BLOCK**  
Editor

The *Star News* coverage area saw only two new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with the Black Earth and Mazomanie area losing a confirmed case, according to Monday’s data. Sauk County remained at 39 total cases, while the only increase came in Prairie du Sac, with an additional two bringing the total to 48. Black Earth/Mazomanie dropped one to 16.

Sauk City and Prairie du

Sac are averaging 6.52 and 7.65 cases per thousand, with Black Earth/Mazomanie coming in at 3.31. Sauk County as a whole saw an increase of 36 cases, and Dane had 327 new cases. Both Sauk and Dane County average just over nine cases per thousand.

The new case rate per 10,000 for Sauk County is 20.42. This data allows comparisons to the school opening metrics, which can be found at the Sauk County Data Hub. A rate of

20.42 puts the County on the threshold between in-person learning and reduced capacity. Just after mid-July cases grew in the Sauk Prairie area, with 27 cases on July 21 doubling to 60 just two weeks later. Sauk Prairie will finish the month of August with a total of 87 cases. From July 1 to now, Sauk Prairie cases increased by 68 cases, a more than fourfold increase in eight weeks. Nearby Columbia County, — SEE COVID, PAGE 2



## Sauk County Board to limit public input at meetings

by **HEATHER STANEK**  
Contributing Writer

Sauk County Board meeting participants will now only be able to share their opinions on agenda items.

The board voted at its August meeting to limit public comments to only topics to be discussed at that particular meeting. Prior to the change, anyone could comment on anything.

The change passed in a 25-5 vote. No votes came from Supervisors Shane Gibson of Baraboo, Rob Nelson of Baraboo, David Riek of Spring Green, Tommy Lee Bychinski of Reedsburg and Kristin White Eagle of Baraboo. Supervisor Brandon Lohr of Prairie du Sac was absent from the meeting and thus did not vote.

Supervisor Valerie McAuliffe of Prairie du Sac called it “a good idea,” and Supervisor John Deitrich of Reedsburg agreed.

He said public comment periods have “been a tool that has been weaponized to either be used against certain topics or the board or individual board members, and so we keep it to the script of the agenda. I think (the change) addresses that situation and brings more decorum.”

A lack of limits has led to long-winded comments about issues not even present in the county, said Supervisor Brian Peper of Loganville.

Supervisor Bryant Hazard of Baraboo, who ultimately voted in favor of limit, expressed displeasure with the idea. He said the board decided long ago that comments criticizing supervisors or county staff would not be allowed, and that rule has been enforced.

“I do think people should have a right to walk up to that microphone and say they don’t like the way things are being

— SEE SAUK, PAGE 2

## Prairie du Sac youth services librarian Beth Hayes retires after nearly 15 years

by **JOE BLOCK**  
Editor

“I loved the people I served and what I did to serve them.”

That’s Beth Hayes’ conclusion to her 14 1/2 years as the Youth Services Librarian at the Ruth Culver Community Library in Prairie du Sac, having retired in June.

“I love interacting with kids and their adults!” said Hayes. “Watching them grow from babies who start doing to motions with the songs after participating a while in Bouncing Babies,” she explained, “to school-age kids who build the most creative LEGO structures and can’t wait for the monthly LEGO club to create new sculptures, to interactions between performers, life-size Storybook characters and live

animals.” “I was a huge proponent of making lots of these events happen at the library,” said Hayes. She grew up in Madison, then — SEE HAYES, PAGE 2



Beth Hayes, with her grandchildren.

## TROY

ing range prior to Solid State Tactical coming to the plan commission.

Speakers also noted problems that include noise, lead contamination in both soil and groundwater, light pollution, a decline in property values and an adverse effect on the diversity of wildlife in the area along the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. Increased traffic along the highway presents additional dan-

gers.

The motion at the meeting was to deny the rezoning of the land to allow construction. Planning commission members Ed Larson and Doug Larson voted for rezoning; Reuben Ederer, Brian Hanson, and Peter Maestri voted against rezoning.

Town of Troy residents have put together a comprehensive list of concerns and created a website, [www.savetroyway.org](http://www.savetroyway.org), listing them. A petition that states, "We oppose the rezoning of the Ringelstetter property at E6828 State Road 60, Spring Green, WI 53588 that would allow Solid State Tactical LLC to build a large scale commercial operation for Extreme Long Range Shooting. We urge the Town of Troy and Sauk County elected officials to respect the Town of Troy Comprehensive Plan which this

proposal violates" is posted on the website. A form to contact organizers is also noted on the website.

The official town board meeting agenda will be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting at the town hall, FVP, C. Auto and the town website at [www.townoftroysauk.com](http://www.townoftroysauk.com) Troy Town Hall is located at S10372 County C.

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## SAUK

done by their county board or the county," Hazard said.

Limitations aren't meant to have a chilling effect on constituents. In fact, they have many ways to communicate with their leaders, said Dettler. They can call, email or write letters. In that regard, they aren't held to time or topic limits.

"People can voice their opinion on any subject they want," he said. "People have a lot of

ways to communicate with us."

Supervisor Dennis Polivka of Spring Green, who also ended up voting in favor, shared that telling people to contact their supervisor can be a catch-22. He cited a past example from his area where a local representative was not addressing known problems so the citizens went before the county board for help. He wondered what would happen in situations such

as this where a leader doesn't do their job.

However, Supervisor Wally Czuprynko of Lake Delton said there's a simple solution to that obstacle: "You vote him out."

Czuprynko noted that boards are not required under Wisconsin statute to offer any sort of public comment period at their meetings, but most do out of respect and acknowledgement for residents. Even then, the

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## COVID

with a similar population as Sauk, started July with 83 cases, and finished August with 351.

Black Earth/Mazomanie started July with less than five cases--the Health Department does not include case counts for less than five. By the end of August, it had 16.

Mask compliance is still an issue in Sauk Prairie, as two customers were sighted in a local store without masks, as well as one employee in the past week.

### Data and methodology

*Sauk County data comes from the Sauk County website; Dane County data from the State of Wisconsin website. The Sauk County data is broken out by zip code; the Dane County data by census tract. Population figures for zip codes and census tracts come from the United States Census Bureau.*

*Zip code data used for Sauk Prairie because it better represents the population and boundaries of both villages.*

*Census tract information used for Black Earth and Mazomanie because it is the most discrete data available. Mazomanie and Black Earth numbers are combined in the data.*

*Cases per thousand is calculated by the Star News using available data. Per thousand is used to better accommodate the smaller population figures. To convert to cases per ten thousand, multiply by 10, or move the decimal one place to the right. To convert to cases per hundred thousand, multi-*

majority limit the public to talking about items that are on the agenda.

Czuprynko's statement that "most" boards limit the public to talking about items on the agenda does not hold true for the *Star News* area. Locals board allow everything from items on the agenda, not on the agenda, or a mix.

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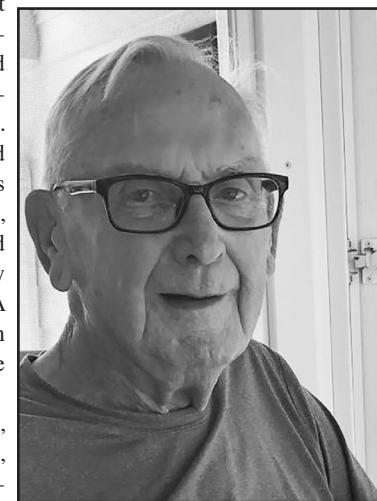
*ply by one hundred or move the decimal two places to the right. Cases per thousand is total cases. This includes active cases as well as resolved cases.*

*Data is usually collected and calculated by the Star News on Mondays. Both Sauk County and the Wisconsin Department of Health revise data; the Star News will note when the revisions are significant.*

*Active case data is not available at the census tract and zip code level. The Star News uses total cases for its calculations.*

## OBITUARIES

### Herbert Hans Feierabend



The Reverend Herbert Hans Feierabend, 89, suffered a stroke and died peacefully at home in Mission, TX August 13, 2020. He cheerfully suffered heart disease, Parkinson's and Lewy Body Dementia, cared for by his devoted partner of 66 years, briefly supported by hospice. A generous, witty man with a ready laugh, he will be sorely missed.

Herb was born in Enid, OK, on April 19, 1931, child of missionaries Reverend Herman and Marie

(Nottrott) Feierabend, the only sibling not born in India. Dr. Theodore Feierabend of Madison, WI and Ruth Gendzwill of Sault Saint Marie, MI also preceded him in death.

He began Boarding School at age 6. In 1947 he left India, and finished his senior year at Belleville High School, IL. He worked his way through Elmhurst College, where he met the love of his life, Beverly June Filenius. They married December 19, 1953, at Christ Church in Milwaukee. He was ordained in 1954 after earning a Bachelor of Divinity from Eden Seminary.

Rev and Bev served six United Church of Christ churches in Wisconsin and New Ulm, MN. He underwent experimental open heart surgery after a heart attack in 1974. A cherished Mission Trip to India in 1979 included lunch with Mother Theresa. His health deteriorated, and in 1986 they returned to the hills of Baraboo to enjoy daily walks, garage sales, playing cards and deer hunting. After traveling the country, they parked their trailer in Canyon Lake Resort in Mission, TX, initially spending the winter months, leaving WI in 2011. In 1993, they established Canyon Lake Builders mission that continues to build shelters and support education for the poor of Nuevo Progreso, Mexico.

Herb is survived by beloved wife Beverly, children Laura (Jon Scudder) of Maple Grove, MN, Chip (Chris) of Madison, WI and Ruth (Deirdre Healey) of Laurel, MD, sister Barbara Ford, grandchildren Ilsa (Vuong Vu), Lauren and Nolan Feierabend, and Eric and Allison Scudder, and dear nieces and nephews and friends.

Memorial service will be held in the park outside First UCC in Sauk City, WI, Thursday September 10 at 10:30 am. Please respect social distancing, wear a mask and bring a chair.

Memorials suggested to the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research <https://www.michaeljfox.org/> or United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need fund <https://www.ucc.org/nin>

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## HAYES

moved after 7th grade to Wauwatosa. Hayes worked in Youth Services at the Baraboo Public Library. Prior to that, she was a stay at home mom, who moved around a lot including to other states and overseas.

"[T]hese experiences helped me reach out to new folks and influenced by desire to create a

warm, friendly atmosphere."

Hayes planned, promoted, and presented all the youth programs at the library, from babies to elementary school. She did outreach, and ordered all the children's books and organized displays.

As for what she loved about her job, Hayes said: "All of it!

I loved presenting the programs and getting to know folks. I loved trying new programs and trying to do more of what people seemed interested in or asked for. I also enjoyed taking care of the collection from selecting to maintaining it and creating displays that enticed the patrons to check the books

out!"

Hayes' giving continues, as she will ride her bicycle through the month of September, logging miles to help with the fight to cure cancer in children. She is joining the Great Cycle Challenge ([greatcyclechallenge.com](http://greatcyclechallenge.com)), where "people of all ages, abilities and from

every state across the country set themselves a personal riding goal and challenge themselves to pedal to fight kids' cancer," according to the website. It continues:

"In five years, our community of riders from all 50 states has ridden a total of 18,831,310 miles, and together we've

raised \$24,615,507 in support of research to develop better treatments and find a cure for childhood cancer."

Nearly 16,000 children in America are diagnosed with cancer every year, and 38 die each week. Hayes wants to do her part to be part of the solution.

## BADGER

The DNR Remediation and Redevelopment program is going to continue to monitor the site and coordinate next steps.

The Army has been holding meetings with stakeholders for several decades as part of a remediation project for the former Badger Plant. There are pollutants from the central area of Badger that have leaked into the groundwater, as well as polluted soil. These polluted "plumes" of groundwater are moving slowly to the southeast towards the Wisconsin River.

The Army has remediated the former settling ponds. According to documentation provided by Laura Olah, Executive Director for Citizens for Safe Water at Badger:

"In a July 29, 2010 inter-

nal communication DNR staff wrote: 'I'm sure that some shallow contaminated soil will remain in the Settling Ponds, Final Creek, and the Spoils Disposal Areas...Although the number of days of use assumed for recreational use in contaminant exposure calculations is around 75 and the Army is proposing to use 77 days, there will still be land uses that would be good to avoid. It is hard to imagine the Settling Ponds and Final Creek being used extensively for any designated activity as part of the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area, although I'm guessing that a hiking trail might be acceptable, for example, but more intensive uses such as a campground or an ATV trail where the vegetation would be removed should

be avoided."

According to Cathy Kropp, Environmental PA Specialist, US Army Environmental Command:

"The Army has a very good relationship with the WDNR. The fire started Wednesday evening, [the Army] learned about it Thursday morning and we sent our local contractor out to the site immediately to talk to the incident commander and share what we knew could have been in the settling ponds."

She continued, "The Army did provide information to assist the decisions made, but we are not the decision maker on land we do not own. The follow-on actions are still being discussed with WDNR. As you can imagine, any work that needs to be

accomplished related to the fire, would not have been planned, and we would need to modify contracts for any additional actions the Army is responsible for."

"We are at the end of the fiscal year for the government, so this would most likely need to wait until after October 1. Right now it is too early in the process to know exactly what will be needed or done or when. The

Army will work closely with WDNR to determine follow-on sampling and assessment, and mitigation efforts. And we will keep the community informed through RAB meetings and Dear Neighbor emails, once we know more."

The *Star News* reached out

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